



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue #12

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

12 August 2010

Field Day at Edisto

This is a reminder that the first Thursday in September marks the date for the annual field day at the Edisto Research and Education Center near Blackville, SC. There will be various tours at the field day, including our row-crop tour. I will provide more information in the weeks to follow, but please put the date on your calendar, and plan to attend.

EDISTO FALL FIELD DAY – 2 September 2010 (First Thursday in September)

Pest Alert!!!

See the section below under soybean called 'Pest Alert: Bean Plataspid/Kudzu Bug' for updated information about an invasive species spreading in our state.

Pest Patrol Hotline

There is a toll-free hotline for quick updates on insect problems. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Simply call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta Crop Science.

News from Above the Lakes

A report I received from just north of lakes indicated that observations of soybeans that have excessive vegetative growth (tall beans) that were treated 1-2 weeks ago for loopers have treatable numbers of loopers again. Pre-counts were high at 18 loopers/rowft and reduced to 7-8 loopers/rowft 10 d after the application (our threshold is 6-8/rowft). There will be a lot more spraying next week for loopers. Tank-mixes are going out for stink bugs, corn earworm, and soybean loopers in many spots. Good coverage is essential, especially if the soybeans are tall. High pressure and repeat applications should be expected.

News from Below the Lakes

There are more reports of fall armyworm in cotton. Be aware of this, and look for fall armyworms in cotton.

Cotton Situation

As of 9 August 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 65% of the crop has set bolls, about equal to 69% for last year and 65% for the 5-yr average. Conditions were described as

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8% excellent, 55% good, 29% fair, 7% poor, and 1% very poor for the crop. The overall moisture levels in the state improved and were described as 8% very short, 28% short, 61% adequate, and 3% surplus.

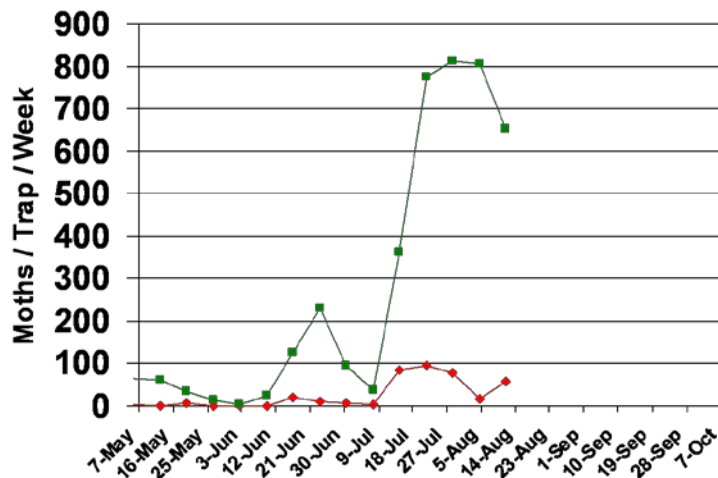
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



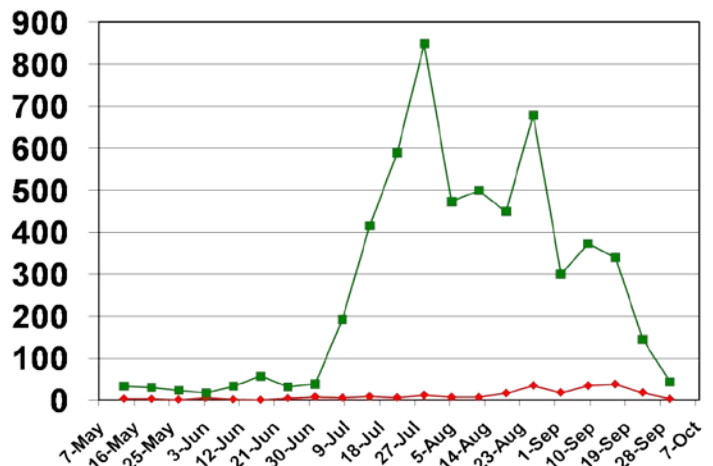
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. Our trap numbers declined a little but were high again this week – we caught another 6,500+ BW moths. Our egg counts have declined in some older cotton but have increased in some late-planted cotton that is blooming extensively now. Pressure has shifted to soybeans that are flowering and setting pods and to late-planted cotton. Because the bollworm continues to be an important pest of cotton and soybean, we will continue to monitor the progress of this pest. Notice that our tobacco budworm captures went back up...this has been a higher-pressure year for tobacco budworm. See “**Tobacco budworm or bollworm?**” in the soybean section below to revisit how to tell the species apart.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



Cotton Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2010 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/PAGES/ENTOM/IC97.pdf>

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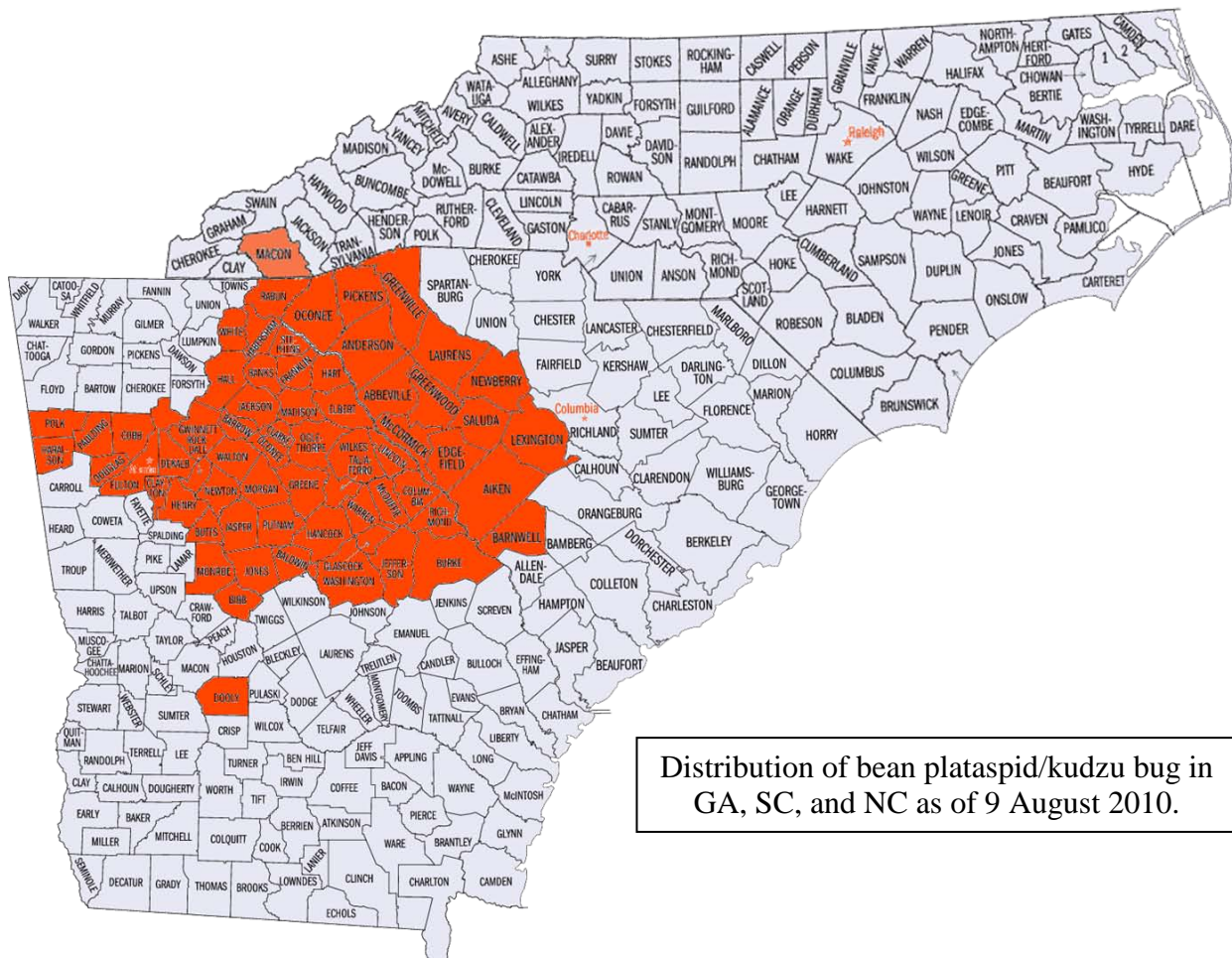


Soybean Situation

As of 9 August 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 72% of soybeans have bloomed, about equal to last year's 67% and the 5-yr average of 72%. About 40% of the crop has set pods, ahead of where we were last year at 35% and the 5-yr average of 33%. Conditions were described as 3% excellent, 46% good, 35% fair, 15% poor, and 1% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Pest Alert: Bean Plataspid/Kudzu Bug!

The bean plataspid/kudzu bug, *Megacopta cribraria*, continues to spread in GA, SC, and NC. We have it in the following counties (14) in SC: Anderson, Oconee, Abbeville, Barnwell, Aiken, Edgefield, McCormick, Greenwood, Laurens, Saluda, Newberry, Lexington, Greenville, and Pickens Counties. ***It has been found on kudzu and/or soybeans in these counties, but it will feed on legumes in general, so it could be on other hosts, and it might be present but yet to be detected in other counties.*** The best place to look for these pests is in kudzu. If you want to help document new county finds of this pest, digital pictures or specimens preserved in alcohol are important documentation to get from infested areas. Please email/send that information to me.



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Egg mass of bean plataspid on soybean leaf (below) and immatures of bean plataspid on kudzu stem (right).



Plataspid and US dime on soybean leaf (below left) and close-up of bean plataspid adult (below right) found on soybean in Barnwell County, SC (2010).



Here are the same pictures as in previous newsletters, but these photos should help those who have not identified the bean plataspid/kudzu bug. We will be conducting research to explore the potential economic impact of this invasive species – we learn more every day. Updates will be provided weekly in the newsletter.

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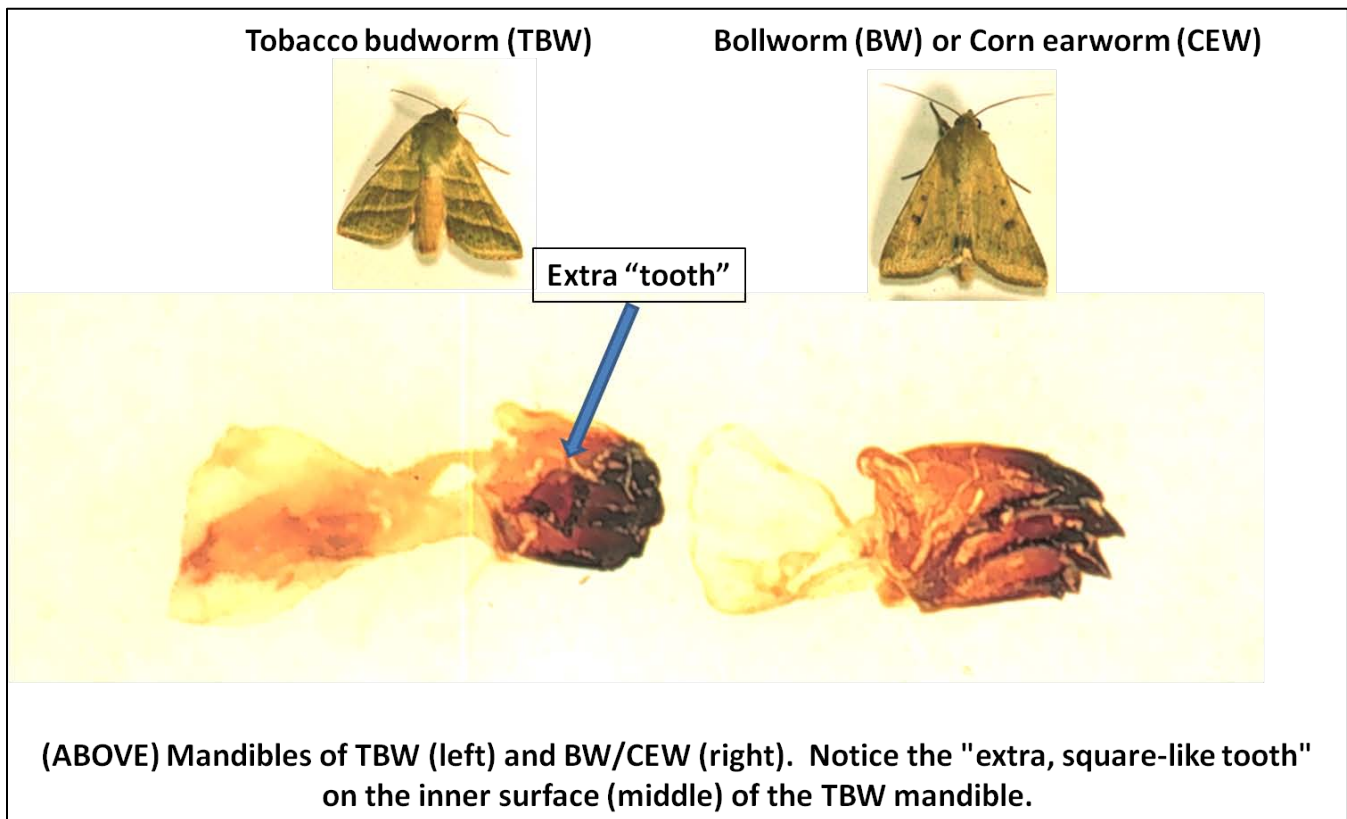
Soybean Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2010 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/PAGES/AGRO/SL1.pdf>

Tobacco budworm or bollworm?

The figure below illustrates how to tell the difference between tobacco budworm (TBW) and corn earworm (CEW) by looking at the mandibles of large caterpillars. Tobacco budworms have an extra tooth in the middle of the mandible – similar to a folded thumb on our hand. CEW does not have this extra tooth on the mandibles. This examination can be made with a dissecting microscope or with a very good hand lens and an expert eye. Why is this important? TBW is resistant to the pyrethroids, but CEW remains susceptible to the pyrethroids (except they are certainly becoming more tolerant of the pyrethroids, and some resistant pockets occur frequently). We will need to use a non-pyrethroid to control TBW. The materials recommended for control of soybean loopers, except for Intrepid, will control TBW. Although Intrepid is excellent on soybean loopers and other defoliating caterpillars, the rates of Intrepid we use for loopers will not control TBW. The materials listed that will control TBW include Steward (9.0-11.3 oz/acre), Tracer (1.5-2.0 oz/acre), and Belt (2-3 oz/acre), added as of yesterday. We need to make sure that we know what species we are dealing with prior to spraying. Our TBW numbers have been higher this season than in any of the past 4 years.



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Pest Management Handbook - 2010

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2010 Pest Management Handbook at:
<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

For more cotton and soybean information:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/>

For past newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

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